

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 RABAT 04278 180944Z

41

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 DRC-01 OMB-01

AID-20 EB-11 AGR-20 PC-04 /214 W

----- 121628

R 171735Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 120

INFO USINT ALGIERS

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

COMNAVTRACOM KENITRA

COMNAVSTA SIDI YAHYA

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 4278

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MO US

SUBJ: NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE AT ALGIERS AND KENTIRA BASE
QUESTION.

1. SUMMARY: KING'S CONCERN REGARDING ATTITUDE OTHER
MAGHREB STATES RATHER THAN CONCERN OVER WHOM TO LEAVE
IN CHARGE HERE MAY BE REASON HE DECIDED NOT TO ATTEND
ALGIERS NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT. PALACE OFFICIAL REPORTEDLY
STATES KING HAS CHANGED MIND, FOLLOWING CONFERENCE,
ABOUT AGITATING KENITRA ISSUE FOR TIME BEING. END SUMMARY.

2. WHILE OFFICIAL LINE REMAINS THAT KING HASSAN DID NOT
GO TO ALGIERS NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE BECAUSE OF ILLNESS,
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 RABAT 04278 180944Z

VERY FEW PEOPLE BELIEVE IT. TWO ARAB DIPLOMATS WHO
ATTENDED DINNER GIVEN FOR NUMEIRTY IN FES ON NIGHT

OF SEPTEMBER 3 REPORT KING IN GOOD HEALTH AND ACTIVELY PLANNING GO TO ALGIERS FOLLOWING MORNING WITH NUMEIRY. EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR, WHO SAW KING WITH HASSAN TUHAMI ON SEPTEMBER 7 WHEN KING THEORETICALLY STILL SICK, GIVES FOLLOWING VERSION OF EVENTS: KING WAS INDEED SICK DURING NIGHT SEPTEMBER 3-4. HE AWOKE AT ABOUT THREE IN MORNING WITH STOMACH ACHE AND CHILLS AND FEVER. THEY WERE GONE BY MORNING HOWEVER. WHAT MADE KING DECIDE AT LAST MINUTE NOT TO GO WERE REPORTS HE RECEIVED REGARDING TUNISIAN, ALGERIAN AND LIBYAN INTENTIONS.

3. KING HAD LEARNED THAT QADHAFI PLANNED TO RAISE ISSUE OF FOREIGN BASES AND PUT MOROCCO ON SPOT. QADHAFI DID IN FACT TRY TO PUT ITEM ON AGENDA BUT SADAT HAD ARGUED SUCCESSFULLY THAT THIS WOULD OPEN AGENDA TO NUMEROUS AMENDMENTS BY OTHERS HAVING PRIVATE AXES TO GRIND. KING NOT AFRAID TO HAVE PUBLIC DEBATE WITH QADHAFI BUT WAS INFORMED THAT BOTH ALGERIANS AND TUNISIANS WERE PLANNING SIDE WITH LIBYANS AGAINST HIM OR AT LEAST NOT TO GIVE HIM ANY SUPPORT. KING AND HIS GOVERNMENT SUBSEQUENTLY INCENSED BY BOURGUIBA'S SEPTEMBER 7 REMARKS REPORTED TUNIS 5293 ABOUT CREATING MAGHREB UNION WITHOUT MOROCCO AND BY BOUMEDIENE'S SUBSEQUENT LUNCHEON WITH QADHAFI, OULD DADDA AND BOURGUIBA, TO WHICH MOROCCANS NOT INVITED. EGYPTIANS SAID MOROCCAN- ALGERIAN RELATIONS, WHILE PUBLICLY GOOD, ARE PRIVATELY "ALMOST AS BAD AS THOSE BETWEEN EGYPT AND LIBYA." MOROCCANS PREPARED DISMISS BOURGUIBA'S REMARKS AS EVIDENCE SENILITY BUT FELT BOUMEDIENE MUST HAVE INTENDED AFFRONT.

4. AP CORRESPONDENT MIKE GOLDSMITH HAS JUST COME IN WITH SIMILAR VERSION (EXCEPT FOR DETAILS ABOUT STOMACH ACHE) WHICH HE HAD HEARD FROM UNNAMED PALACE OFFICIALS WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS RELIABLE SOURCE. ACCORDING THIS OFFICIAL, ALGERIANS AND TUNISIANS, CONCERNED ABOUT DANGER TO THEM POSED BY PROPOSED LIBYAN-EGYPTIAN MERGER, HAD DECIDED REVIVE CONCEPT OF MAGHREB UNION INVOLVING TUNISIA AND LIBYA WHICH HAD BEEN DISCUSSED BY BOURGUIBA AND QADHAFI SOME TIME AGO. THIS TIME, UNION WOULD INVOLVE
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 RABAT 04278 180944Z

ALGERIA AS WELL, BUT WOULD EXCLUDE MOROCCO, WHICH NOT A REPUBLIC. IDEA HAD BEEN PROPOSED TO LIBYA PRIOR TO CONFERENCE AND QADHAFI, SMARTING FROM COLLAPSE OF MERGER WITH EGYPT, HAD RESPONDED IN POSITIVE FASHION. KING HAD GOTTEN WIND OF THIS AND DECIDED NOT TO ATTEND. PALACE SOURCE CONFIRMED THAT KING INDEED UPSET BY BOURGUIBA REMARKS AND BOUMEDIENE LUNCHEON.

5. GOLDSMITH ADDED POTENTIALLY IMPORTANT ITEM INCIDENTAL INTEL-
LIGENCE FROM SAME PALACE OFFICIAL THAT FOLLOWING

CONFERENCE, KING HAD DECIDED TAKE EVACUATION OF KENITRA OFF THE LIST OF OPPOSITION DEMANDS HE INTENDED IMPLEMENT, AT LEAST FOR TIME BEING. GOLDSMITH SPECULATED THIS WAS RESULT KING'S GROWING FEELING OF ISOLATION.

6. PRIME MINISTER OSMAN, WHILE NOT GOING INTO ABOVE DETAILS, TOLD ME SEPT. 16 THAT QADHAFI WAS INTERESTED IN UNION WITH TUNISIA AND ALGERIA AND IMPLIED THAT IT WAS QADHAFI RATHER THAN BOUMEDIENE OR BOURGUIBA WHO WAS PRIME MOVER BEHIND UNION PROPOSAL. FONMIN BENHIMA INFORMED ME THAT LUNCHEON WAS TUNISIAN IDEA AND MOROCCO HAD NOT BEEN INVITED BECAUSE TUNISIANS FEARED QADHAFI WOULD NOT COME IF MOROCCANS DID.

7. COMMENT: AS REPORTED OUR 4242, WE HAVE LEANED TOWARDS HYPOTHESIS THAT KING DID NOT GO ALGIERS BECAUSE OF DOMESTIC SITUATION AND LACK OF SOMEONE RELIABLE TO LEAVE IN CHARGE HERE. EGYPTIAN-GOLDSMITH VERSION OF EVENTS, HOWEVER, IS PLAUSIBLE AND COULD EXPLAIN LAST MINUTE SWITCH ON KING'S PART. SUCH CHANGES BY KING ARE NOTORIOUS, BUT THIS ONE SEEMS A LITTLE ABRUPT EVEN FOR HIM. WHILE QUESTION WHY HE DID NOT GO TO ALGIERS MAY SEEM SOMEWHAT ACADEMIC, HIS FAILURE ATTEND COULD MARK FURTHER DETERIORATION IN HIS RELATIONS WITH MAGHREB STATES, WHICH ARE ALREADY SOURED BY SPANISH SAHARA ISSUE. COMIN
E E E E E E E

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FEDERATION, NONALIGNED NATIONS MEETINGS, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS, MILITARY BASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973RABAT04278
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS COMIN
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: RABAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730930/aaaaavqx.tel
Line Count: 136
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 26 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26-Sep-2001 by freemaal>; APPROVED <05-Nov-2001 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE AT ALGIERS AND KENTIRA BASE QUESTION.
TAGS: PFOR, MO, US, (HASSAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005